



Who is infected with HIV but does not yet know?

Overview

Although it is impossible to determine who is infected with HIV but does not yet know, a proxy indicator is used to provide an estimate. People who already have an AIDS-defining condition when HIV infection is diagnosed (or who are diagnosed with AIDS within two months of HIV-infection diagnosis) represent a population that may have first learned about their HIV infection late in the progression of HIV disease. Termed “concurrent diagnosis”, it is likely that people who are diagnosed with both HIV infection and AIDS within two months have been infected for more time prior to learning their HIV-infection status and were unaware of their status. As such, the profile of people who are concurrently diagnosed with HIV infection and AIDS may approximate those who are infected, but do not know it.

The largest differences in proportion of concurrent diagnoses are associated with place of birth. Thirty-seven percent of people born outside the US, who were diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts between 2002 and 2004, were also diagnosed with AIDS within two months; compared to 25% of people born in the US and 27% of people born in Puerto Rico or other US dependencies (countries that are supported and governed by the US). Additionally, 34% of black (non-Hispanic) individuals with HIV infection were concurrently diagnosed, compared to 25% of white (non-Hispanic) and 28% of Hispanic individuals. However, these differences by race/ethnicity are strongly associated with place of birth. Differences also exist by age category, with older individuals having higher proportions of concurrent HIV and AIDS diagnoses.

The following summary describes concurrent HIV infection and AIDS diagnoses in more depth.

General Statistics

- Within the three-year period 2002 to 2004, 785 people were diagnosed with HIV infection and AIDS within two months of each other, representing 28% of the 2,770 diagnoses of HIV infection during this time period.

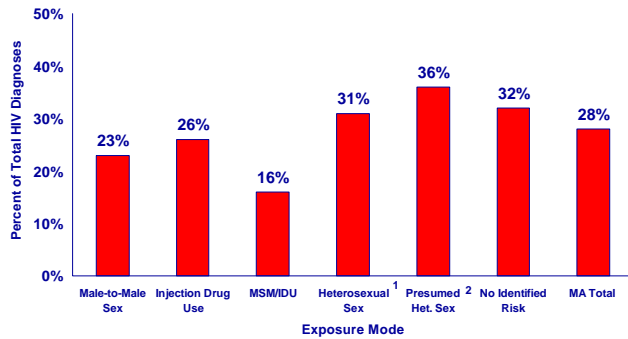
Concurrent Diagnoses by Gender and Race/Ethnicity

- Among all people diagnosed with HIV infection within the three-year period 2002 to 2004, a slightly higher proportion of males than females were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS (29% vs. 26%).
- Across race/ethnicity, between 2002 and 2004, black (non-Hispanic) individuals diagnosed with HIV infection had the highest proportion of concurrent AIDS diagnosis at 34%.
- Twenty-five percent of white (non-Hispanic) individuals, 28% of Hispanic individuals, and 28% of Asian/Pacific Islanders with HIV infection were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS within the three-year period 2002 to 2004.

Concurrent Diagnoses by Exposure Mode

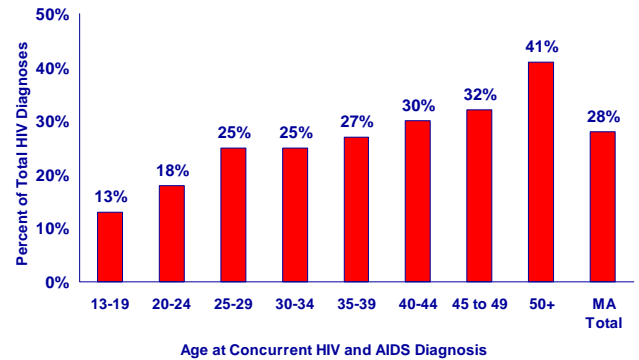
- Among all people diagnosed with HIV infection, people exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex regardless of known risk for HIV or known HIV-positive status in partners, have a higher proportion of concurrent HIV infection and AIDS diagnoses than people exposed through other modes.

Figure 1. Proportion of People Diagnosed with HIV Infection and AIDS Within 2 Months by Exposure Mode: Massachusetts, 2002-2004



¹ heterosexual sex with partners with known risk and HIV status
² heterosexual sex with partners with unknown risk and HIV status
 Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 7/1/05

Figure 3. Proportion of People Diagnosed with HIV Infection and AIDS Within 2 Months by Age at Concurrent HIV and AIDS Diagnosis: Massachusetts, 2002-2004

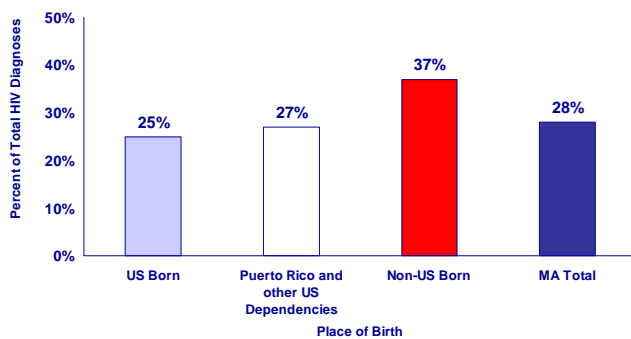


Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 7/1/05

Concurrent Diagnoses by Place of Birth

- Thirty-seven percent of people born outside the US who were diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts between 2002 and 2004 were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS, compared to 25% of people born in the US and 27% born in Puerto Rico and other US dependencies.

Figure 2. Proportion of People Diagnosed with HIV Infection and AIDS within Two Months by Place of Birth: Massachusetts, 2002-2004



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 7/1/05

Concurrent Diagnoses by Age Category

- Among age categories, people with HIV infection who are age 50 and older had the highest proportion of concurrent AIDS diagnosis from 2002 to 2004 at 41%.

Concurrent Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

- Among all **males** diagnosed with HIV infection, 36% percent of black (non-Hispanic) males were concurrently diagnosed with HIV infection and AIDS within the three-year period 2002 to 2004 compared to 26% of white (non-Hispanic) males and 31% of Hispanic males.
- While caution should be used when interpreting percentages derived from a numerator less than 10, the highest proportion of concurrent HIV infection and AIDS diagnosis among **females** was among Asian/Pacific Islanders at 40% (N=6/15).
- White (non-Hispanic) **females** with HIV infection had the lowest proportion of concurrent HIV infection and AIDS diagnosis across race/ethnicity, at 21%.
- Among all **females** diagnosed with HIV infection, 22% percent of Hispanic and 31% of black (non-Hispanic) females were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS within the three-year period 2002 to 2004.

Data Source:

HIV/AIDS Case Data: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, HIV/AIDS Surveillance System, All Data as of 7/1/05